DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 410 868 HE 030 464

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TITLE Indispensable Resources for Institutional Researchers: An Analysis of AIR Publication Topics Since 1974. AIR 1997 Annual Forum Paper.

PUB DATE 1997-05-00

NOTE 20p.; Paper presented at the Annual Forum of the Association for Institutional Research (37th, Orlando, FL, May 18-21, 1997).

PUB TYPE Information Analyses (070) -- Reports - Descriptive (141) -- Speeches/Meeting Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS Comparative Analysis; *Content Analysis; Faculty Publishing; Higher Education; Information Dissemination; *Institutional Research; Literature Reviews; Periodicals; *Publications; Research Methodology; Trend Analysis; Writing for Publication

IDENTIFIERS *AIR Forum; *Association for Institutional Research

ABSTRACT

This study identified and classified the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) publication topics and authors since 1973 in order to provide a reference resource for institutional researchers. The study reviewed the following AIR publication collections: "Research in Higher Education"; "New Directions for Institutional Research"; "Resources in Institutional Research"; "AIR Professional File"; and the "Higher Education Handbook of Theory and Research." A matrix of topics was developed relying on the seven AIR Forum Tracks: (1) "Enrollment Management and Student Affairs"; (2) "Institutional Effectiveness, Student Learning, and Outcomes Assessment"; (3) "Academic Program and Faculty Issues"; (4) "Resource Management and Quality Improvement"; (5) "Policy Analysis, Planning, and Governance"; (6) "Theory, Practice, and Ethics of Institutional Research"; and (7) "Technology and Tools for Institutional Research." A table shows the distribution of AIR publications by track. An appendix contains descriptions of the AIR publications. (JLS)

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Indispensable Resources for Institutional Researchers: An Analysis of AIR Publications Topics Since 1974

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Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Institutional Research, Orlando, Florida, May 1997.

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AIR
for Management Research, Policy Analysis, and Planning

This paper was presented at the Thirty-Seventh Annual Forum of the Association for Institutional Research held in Orlando, Florida, May 18-21, 1997. This paper was reviewed by the AIR Forum Publications Committee and was judged to be of high quality and of interest to others concerned with the research of higher education. It has therefore been selected to be included in the ERIC Collection of Forum Papers.

Jean Endo
Editor
AIR Forum Publications

Indispensable Resources for Institutional Researchers: An Analysis of AIR Publications Topics Since 1974

This paper identifies and classifies the AIR publication topics and authors in order to provide a valuable reference resource for institutional researchers. Beginning with the first volumes of *Research in Higher Education* (RIHE) in 1973 and *New Directions for Institutional Research* (NDIR) in 1974, the Association for Institutional Research (AIR) has supported a growing array of publications that strengthen the professional development of its members and other higher education professionals. There are now five AIR-affiliated publications that publish, review, or commission scholarship that is aimed directly at the diverse audiences represented by the members of the AIR.

In addition to the six volumes each year of RIHE, there are now four volumes each year of NDIR, the *AIR Professional File* (PFile) which is about to publish the 65th of its topic-focused papers, the monograph series *Resources in Institutional Research* (RIR) with its 11th volume in press, and the annual *Higher Education Handbook of Theory and Research* (HEH) which has published 12 volumes of commisioned scholarly analyses. NDIR is published by Jossey-Bass in San Francisco, the HEH is published by Agathon Press in New York, RIHE is published by Human Sciences Press in New York, and the PFile and RIR series are published by the AIR in Tallahassee. Appendix A contains more information about each of these five publications.

METHOD

The objects of this analysis are 100 volumes of NDIR (92 circulated and 8 in preparation), over 40 chapters in the twelve volumes of RIR (10 volumes produced and 2 in preparation), 65 issues of the PFile (63 out and 2 in press), and the 124 chapters in 12 volumes of HEH. The almost 1,000 articles contained in RIHE since 1973 proved to voluminous to be included here and will receive separate analysis. The classification of publications and topics presented here is based on the shared judgements of an institutional researcher, faculty member, and two graduate students.

We developed a matrix of topics and publications by relying upon the seven AIR Forum Tracks as the most convenient and widely recognized schemata for classification. Each AIR Forum is organized into seven tracks that focus on the major functions of institutions (teaching and learning by faculty and students), the management and support of these functions (administrative services, policy analysis, planning, resource allocation, and governance), and the role of institutional research (theory, practice, technology, tools). The seven tracks are described in various AIR materials as follows:

Track 1 – Enrollment Management and Student Affairs
This track focuses on undergraduate and graduate participants in postsecondary education. Topics include enrollment planning and projections, recruitment and retention, student needs assessments, student profiles, and student financial aid.

Track 2 – Institutional Effectiveness, Student Learning, and Outcomes Assessment
This track concerns the assessment of institutional effectiveness and student outcomes. Related topics include the assessment of general education, the academic major, affective student learning, retention, and other aspects of student life related to teaching and learning. Measurement issues and effective data collection techniques related to these topics are especially relevant.

Track 3 – Academic Program and Faculty Issues
This track addresses issues related to curriculum; research and scholarly productivity; public service; tenure policies; program review; faculty recruitment, development, and retention; faculty flow models; collective bargaining; salary models; faculty evaluation; and decision making regarding faculty and academic programs.

Track 4 – Resource Management and Quality Improvement
This track involves resource allocation, budget and finance issues, quality improvement and cost containment initiatives, human resources/personnel issues, allocation and expansion of capital facilities and equipment, and institutional advancement.

Track 5 – Policy Analysis, Planning, and Governance
This track emphasizes the major governance and executive functions of an institution. Issues include policy and management analyses, strategic and tactical planning processes, institutional mission development, operations research, and decision support.

Track 6 – Theory, Practice, and Ethics of Institutional Research
This track describes the role, scope, and evolution of institutional research within and across institutions. It includes surveys of institutional research practice, evaluation models for assessing the research function, techniques for managing the institutional research office, and the ethical and political dimensions of practicing institutional research. Theoretical discussions of research design and statistical applications - but not computer demonstrations, which are part of Track 7 - are also appropriate.

Track 7 – Technology and Tools for Institutional Research
This track highlights the development and usage of technologies and tools in computer applications, information processing and reporting, and telecommunications which can influence institutional research demonstrations and presentations of database design and management electronic communications, and information analysis and reporting that affect the efficiency and effectiveness of institutional research are especially sought for this track.

In conducting this study, we had to overcome two obstacles. First, these seven categories are not neatly separable and many overlap. Studies of *retention* are listed in the descriptions both for Track 1 (*enrollment management & student affairs)* and for Track 2 (*effectiveness & outcomes assessment*). Many topics lodged elsewhere (such as *TQM*) could properly be

described as falling within Track 2 and its emphasis on *institutional effectiveness*. Nevertheless, we compartmentalized the topics within each track as best we could and stuck to consistent judgements about each publication. For example, all attrition/retention studies are grouped with student tracking and appear under enrollment management.

A second problem is that many studies contain portions that fall into more than one topic (e.g., a policy analysis of student financial aid and loan default, or a study of diversity and gender issues that impact faculty turnover or student satisfaction). This is particularly true in the RIR and NDIR volumes where a single topic is examined from multiple perspectives. We resolve these problems by listing such publications under multiple topics.

In reviewing approximately 350 publications, chapters, and articles for this exercise, we aggregated them into almost five-dozen sub-topics which account for nearly all the diversity of coverage and seem to have face validity from the shared judgements of the institutional researcher and graduate students involved in the process.

RESULTS

The results of our analysis are shown in Table 1. The five dozen AIR Tracks and sub-topics are listed in the first column of the table. The second column displays how we classify the 100 volumes of *New Directions for Institutional Research* (NDIR) that are published and planned. The middle column shows our analysis of the 65 *Professional Files*. The *Resources in Institutional Research* (RIR) column indicates where we slotted its various volumes and chapters. In the final column, we display the relevant chapters from the *Higher Education Handbook of Theory and Research* (HEH) by topic area. The cells within the columns for NDIR, PFile, RIR, and HEH contain the volume numbers and authors for each publication related to that topic. In *Italics* are the manuscripts under development.

For **Track 1**, we see 35 publications related to enrollment management and student affairs topics. Not surpringly, the most attention is given to analyses of student retention and persistence, with three NDIR volumes, six Pfiles, two RIR chapters, and two HEH chapters. While student affairs issues *per se* have not received a great deal of attention in AIR publications, NDIR and HEH are providing good coverage to financial aid issues.

Track 2, on institutional effectiveness and outcomes, constitutes perhaps the most diverse and prolific publications area for these AIR works. We found over 55 publications that address important topics within the dozen sub-areas in this track. NDIR in particular is giving solid coverage to topics dealing with accountability, program review, alumni studies, and graduate education. Receiving the greatest publications attention is outcomes assessment, with 14 publications across all four sources.

About 30 of these publications are aimed at the faculty and academic issues represented in **Track 3.** HEH gives this area solid coverage (15 chapters), followed by NDIR with seven volumes. RIR devotion to these topics is limited to one chapter each in the Primer and the Bibliography.

The resource management and quality improvement areas of **Track 4** are addressed by over 50 AIR publications, spread rather evenly across all four sources and nine sub-topics. The most thorough coverage is offered by NDIR's 22 volumes.

Track 5 is the most diverse aggregation of subjects, and we divided it into 12 sub-areas. 32 HEH chapters and 22 NDIR volumes account for most of the 64 publications directed at these various administrative issues related to policy, planning, and governance. Planning and strategic planning have received the most attention from NDIR, while HEH has given most of its attention to leadership, campus/government relations, and campus issues related to culture/climate/diversity/gender. RIR and PFile contributions to Track 5 topics are relatively light.

Institutional Research studies itself in **Track 6,** and the 16 or so publications here are limited to NDIR, PFile, and RIR. HEH is more oriented toward higher education in general and less to IR in particular.

Track 7 covers research methods, tools, and technology. This is an important skills area for researchers, and we divided it into ten sub-topics that have received reasonably even coverage by these four publication sources. NDIR has aimed 23 volumes at Track 7 topics, and 17 of them examine one aspect or another of informations systems and data management. There are seventeen PFile issues in Track 7, and a growing collection of RIR volumes. The majority of HEH chapters focus upon statistics and research methods.

Looking holistically at the results, we conclude that the profession has made progress toward developing a growing array of publications resources to support research practitioners. While complete and current coverage will be a continuing challenge, these AIR-affiliated publications are collectively supplying important coverage that appears to be growing at a healthy rate. We need to bring analyses such as this to the attention of our colleagues in the field in order to increase their awareness and professional development.

Table 1
AIR Publications Addressing Critical Topics in Institutional Research

AIR Tracks & Topics	Volumes and Authors			
	New Directions for Institutional Research	**Professional File**	**Resources for Inst. Research (RIR)**	**Higher Education Handbook of T&R**
TRACK 1. Enrollment Management & Student Affairs			8-Bibliography-Ewell	III-Weiler, V-Hossler
Admissions Recruiting & Enrollment Forecasting	93-Layzell	4-Kraetsch, 40-Duby 45-Urban, 62-Borden et al. *64-Saupe&Long*	7-Primer-Clagett	
Retention/Attrition/Persistence & Student Tracking	36-Pascarella, 70-Hossler 87-Ewell	39-Farabaugh-Dorkins 44-Glover&Wilcox 32-Kalsbeck, 55-Conklin 61-Ronco, 62-Borden et al	7-Primer-Middaugh 8-Bib.Ewell	II-Tinto XII-Braxton et al.
Graduate Student Retention & Time to Degree	80-Baird			IV-Malaney, VI-Baird, VII-Tuckman
Financial Aid	25-Henry, 62-Fenske *95-Voorhees*			V-McPherson, IX-Hearn X-St.John&Elliott
Student Affairs Issues	*Bauer 1998*			VI-Voorhees, VII-Perry
TRACK 2. Institutional Effectiveness, Outcomes Assessment & Student Learning	29-Miller, 32-Lindquist	37-Nichols, 51-Sapp *65-Griffith et al*		I-Conrad&Blackburn XI-Cameron&Whetten
Accountability/Performance Measures	1-Bowen, 16-Folger 82-Borden&Banta,			XI-Nedwek
Academic Program Reviews & Evaluating Admin. Services	27-Craven, 86-Barak&Mets 41-Scott, 56-Wergin&Braskamp	25-Harpel, 26-Barak	7-Prim.-Hanson&Price	III-Wilson
Accreditation & Self-Study		22-Johnson&Christal	8-Bib.Seybert&Bielen	
Guidebooks, Rankings & Ratings	88-Wallerí&Moss			VIII-Webster
Alumni Studies, Marketing & Development Research	21-Lucas, 54-Lay&Endo 60-Melchiori, *Pettit&Litten 1998*	41-Pettit		

Note: Each column indicates the volume number and the author(s) for the publication on that topic.
Items *in italics* are in press or planned.

[Revised May 1997]

AIR Tracks & Topics	NDIR Series	Professional File	RIR Series	Higher Ed. Handbook
TRACK 2. (Cont'd) OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT	47-Ewell, 59-Banta	37-Nichols, 41-Pettit 54-Myers&Silvers	7-Primer-Endo 8-Bib. Gentemann&Rogers 9-Middaugh et al. *Volkwein (1998)*	I-Pascarella, IV-Ewell IV-Baird, X-Kuh et al. XII-Voorhees
Academic Performance			8-Bib. Larson&Matier	
College Impact, Student Development			7-Primer-Endo 8-Bib. Endo et al.	III-Nucci&Pascarella V-Weidman IX-Blimling, IX-Nora
Entering Student Characterististics		63-Noble& Sawyer	8-Bib. Endo et al.	
Adult Education/Nontraditional Study/ Remedial Education	4-Baskin	27-Lucas, 29-Bers 42-Clagett&McConochie		VIII-Clowes
Graduate Education & Research	50-Cresswell, 80-Baird 90-Braxton, 92-Haworth			IV-Malaney, VI-Baird VII-Tuckman, XI-Haworth
Community College				X-Frye, IX-Nora, XII-Voorhees

TRACK 3. Academic Program and Faculty Issues	57-Stark&Mets, 90-Braxton		8-Bib. Fincher&Taylor	I&II-Fincher, I-McCord VII-Perry XI-Braxton&Hargens
Academic Management	10-Smart&Montgomery			
Faculty Workload/Productivity	2-Doi, 83-Wergin			XI-Ward&Grant
Faculty Evaluation/Develpmt	20-Kirschling, 50-Cresswell			IV-Clark&Lewis V-Centra, XII-Boise
Curriculum & Instruction, Gen'l Educ.		9-Melchiori 52-Underwood&Nowaczyk	8-Bib. Fincher&Taylor	X-Goodchild et al.
Teaching & Student Ratings	57-Stark&Mets, 90-Braxton			VII-Murray VII-Weimer&Lenze VIII-Marsh&Dunkin XI-Abrami et al.
Salary Analysis/Equity		20-Allard 50-Zeglen&Schmidt 57-Zeglen&Tesfagiorgis	7-Primer-Howard et al.	VII-Dwyer, et al.

Note: Each column indicates the volume number and the author(s) for the publication on that topic. Items *in Italics* are in press or planned.

[Revised May 1997]

AIR Tracks & Topics	NDIR Series	Professional File	RIR Series	Higher Ed. Handbook
TRACK 4. Resource Management & Quality Improvement	8-Wallhaus, 11-Dressel&Simon 13-Hopkins&Schroeder	*65-Griffith et al*		II-Leslie&Brinkman XI-Layzell
Budget Studies & Financial Analysis		3-Gross, 11-Taylor 24-Taylor	8-Bib.Haberaecker et al 9-Middaugh et al.	VI-Ahumada IX-Lasher&Greene
Pricing & Cost Analysis	17-Gonyea, 42-Litten, 75-Hollins	7- Hample, 19-Taylor 23-Brinkman&Allen	7-Primer-Haberaecker 9-Middaugh et al.	XII-Olson
Human Resources Management	7-Heist&Warren		8-Bib.Sanford et al.	
Managing Faculty Resources	18-Leslie, 40-Baldwin&Blackburn 63-Lozier&Dooris	30-Gibson&Golden	8-Bib.Sanford et al.	V-Youn, VII-Burke
Managing Change/Decline/ Restructuring	6-Cartter, 24-Cooke, 30-Hample 33-Hipps 79-Simpson, 94-Norris	14-Belanger&Tremblay 16-Norris		II-Zammuto
Endowment/Fund-raising	51-Dunn, 43-Leslie			
Forecasting Revenues	93-Layzell	62-Borden et al.		
Facilities & Space Analysis	61-Kaiser		8-Bib. Clements&Lowe	
TQM/CQI	71-Sherr&Teeter 78-Teeter&Lozier	46-Heverly 53-Frost&Beach 60-Zeglan	7-Primer-Heverly 8-Bib.Chaffee	VIII-Dill

Note: Each column indicates the volume number and the author(s) for the publication on that topic.
Items *in Italics* are in press or planned.

[Revised May 1997]

AIR Tracks & Topics	NDIR Series	Professional File	RIR Series	Higher Ed. Handbook
TRACK 5. Policy Analysis, Planning, & Governance Issues	26-Dressel			I-Morgan&Mitchell III-Whetten&Bettenhausen
PLANNING	13-Hopkins&Schroeder 19-Fenske 28-Heydinger, 33-Hipps		8-Bib Dunn	
Strategic Planning	37-Uhl, 52-Callan 67-Schmidtlein&Milton	26-Barak 49-Corak&Wharton		I-Chaffee, IV-Dill&Helm V-Chaffee
Environmental Anal./Forecasting	39-Morrison et al., 52-Callan		7-Primer-Morrison	IV-Hearn, V-Morrison&Mecca
POLICY ANALYIS	76-Gill&Saunders	*64-Saupe&Long*	8-Bib Casey&Gill	
GOVERNANCE & ADMIN. ISSUES				VI-Hardy
Leadership/Trustee Board Relations	5-Berdahl			II-Cameron&Ulrich, III-Fincher V-Birnbaum, XI-Fincher VII-Twombley&Amey
Decision Making/Teamwork	*Frost&Johnson-1998*	15-Mayo&Kallio		
Culture, Climate, Diversity, Gender Issues	3-Sells, 65-Nettles, 68-Tierney 81-Smith et al., *Bauer 1998*		7-Primer-Smith	II-Clague, IV-Baird IV-Cameron&Ettington VI-Mow&Nettles VII-Dwyer et al, IX-Nora IX-Peterson&Spencer XI-Ward&Grant
Campus/Gov't Relations & Regulations	45-Hodgkinson	8-Davis		III-Volkwein, VII-Gumport VIII-Rhoades, X-VanVught XI-Layzell, XI-Jones XII-Hutcheson, XII-Zumeta
Athletics	74-Mallette&Howard		8-Bib Callahan&Mallette	X-Goodchild et al.
Legal Issues	14-Taylor, 48-Rosenthal&Yancey *96-Jones*			I-Lee, III-Young&Braswell
Econom. Impact & Technol. Transfer				XII-Feller

Note: Each column indicates the volume number and the author(s) for the publication on that topic.
Items *on Italics* are in press or planned.

[Revised May 1997]

AIR Tracks & Topics	NDIR Series	Professional File	RIR Series	Higher Ed. Handbook
TRACK 6. Theory, Practice, & Ethics of Institutional Research	38-Firnberg&Lasher, 46-Peterson&Corcoran, 66-Presley, *Volkwein 1998*	48-McLaughlin&Snyder 58-Matross, 60-Zeglan	1-Saupe-Functions 7-Prim.Whitely et al. 8-Bib.Peterson et al. 9-Middaugh et al.	
Developing New/Small IR Office	66-Presley	1-Ridge	9-Middaugh et al.	
Ethics in IR	73-Schiltz			
Career Development	23-Cope	12-Johnson, 13-Fenstemacher		

TRACK 7. Technology and Tools for Institutional Research				
Development/Evaluat. of Information Systems & Computing Technology	9-Mason, 22-Staman, 31-Poulton, 44-Tetlow 55-Stamen, 85-Sanford	6-Strenglein, 10-Staman 31-Matross, 34-Updegrove	8-Bib.Updegrove	
Student Information & Tracking Systems	35-Sheehan, 87-Ewell	2-Saunders, 28-Simpson		
Executive MIS & Decision Support Systems	15-Adams, 31-Poulton 44-Tetlow 49-Rohrbaugh&McCart, 64-Ewell 77-Glover&Krotseng, 84-Kinnick	18-Moore&Greenwood 36-Clagett, 56-Kinnick		II-Shapiro III-Weiler
Data Management&Data Exchange	55-Stamen, 69-Lenth, 89-Trainer	5-Bloom&Montgomery 33-Gose	*McLaughlin&Howard 1997*	
Inter-institutional Peer Comparison	12-Peterson, 53-Brinkman		7-Prim.Teeter&Brinkman 8-Bib.Walleri et al.	
STATISTICS & RESEARCH METHODS	58-Yancey		8-Bib.Griffiths& McLaughlin 10-Pagano&Coughlin	V-Hinkle et al. VI-Stage VIII-Austin et al. XI-Creswell et al. X-Cabrera, XII-Ethington
Survey Research		47-Banta et al., 59-Sanders&Chan	6-Suskie	
Qualitative Research Methods	34-Kuhns&Martorana, 72-Fetterman	35-Peglow-Hoch&Walleri 38-Attinasi, 43-Brodigan		III-Crowson, XII-Wood VI-Baldwin&Thelin
Factbooks & Reporting Techniques	91-Jones	21-Ruggiero et al.		
Graphing and Presenting Data		17-Brandenburg&Simpson	Mims (1987)	

Note: Each column indicates the volume number and the author(s) for the publication on that topic. Items *in Italics* are in press or planned.

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APPENDIX A

Descriptions of AIR Publications

1. Research in Higher Education (RIHE), 1973.

Editors
Charles F. Elton, 1973-1990
John C. Smart, 1990+

Associate and Assistant Editors
Cameron Fincher
James C. Hearn
Jean J. Endo

RIHE is the official journal of the AIR and is published six times a year by Human Sciences Press, Inc., a subsidiary of Plenum Publishing Corporation. Founded in 1973, RIHE contains research papers that generally, but not exclusively, stress empirical studies of colleges and universities. The journal describes its purpose as publishing scholarly works that contribute to our collective understanding of one or more institutions of higher education in order to aid faculty and administrators make informed decisions, and to improve efficiency or effectiveness. RIHE has established itself as higher education's most selective journal with a manuscript acceptance rate ranging between 10% and 15%. John Smart works with 30 consulting editors.

The February issue each year contains the outstanding papers from the previous AIR Forum; and the final issue in each volume contains an index by author and subject. The six volumes of RIHE in 1996 average 126 pages and contain 31 articles and one "AIR Between Forums." Almost 1000 studies have been published in RIHE since 1973. This number is too large to have included them in the topic matrix contained in this paper, but they deserve separate analysis. A study of the first 15 years of RIHE scholarship concluded that the top five topics covered in RIHE were faculty issues, administration/management/governance, research issues/methods, student issues/services, and curriculum/instruction. (Volkwein, Carbone, and Volkwein, RIHE, 1988)

2. New Directions for Institutional Research (NDIR), 1974.

Editors-in-Chief
Sidney Suslow and Paul Jedamus, 1973-77
Paul Jedamus, 1977-78
Marvin W. Peterson, 1978-84
Patrick T. Terenzini, 1985-95

J. Fredericks Volkwein, 1995+

Associate Editors

Patrick T. Terenzini, 1983-84
Marvin W. Peterson, 1985-89
Ellen E. Chaffee, 1990-93
J. Fredericks Volkwein, 1994-95
Larry L. Litten, 1996+

2. NDIR (cont'd)

New Directions for Institutional Research is a quarterly sourcebook published by Jossey-Bass under the sponsorship and policies of the Association for Institutional Research. Each *NDIR* issue focuses in detail on a specific topic relating to institutional research, planning, or higher education management in general. The Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editor select the topics and issue editors in consultation with the Publications Board of the AIR. The issue editors are recognized authorities who assume responsibility for developing the volume and selecting appropriate individuals to write each chapter. The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for planning, coordination and quality control, and with the Associate Editor, exercises this responsibility by assisting each issue editor plan the volume, select appropriate chapter authors, and then review their work to ensure that they meet publication standards. Manuscripts from each author must survive a two-level review (volume editor and NDIR editor) and meet standards for both content and style before they are published.

NDIR volumes normally contain five to ten chapters that examine the various dimensions of each topic, summarize the latest information, and point to future directions. Volumes run 95 to 120 pages in length and have an annotated table of contents, explanatory headnotes, an index, and a list of sources for additional information. *NDIR* has been one of the most successful in the Jossey-Bass series, and 1998 marks its Silver Anniversary with the production of Volumes 97-100.

3. The AIR Professional File (PFile), 1978.

Editors
Richard R Perry, 1978-83
John A Lucas, 1984-96
Mardy T. Eimers, 1996+

The Professional File began in 1978 as a commissioned publication of the Association for Institutional Research. Averaging three per year, each issue contains a single article of 10 to 16 pages and is distributed to that year's AIR members as a benefit of membership. The PFile's purpose is to enhance the practice of institutional research by providing a continuing collection of selected writings which examine institutional research operations and exemplary practice, and which synthesize and interprete relevant issues and research. In the early years, there was no advisory committee to work with the Editor, but the publication decisions now are increasingly carried out through The PFile's Advisory Committee which has recently grown from ten to fourteen institutional researchers. They review submitted manuscripts and make recommendations for publication to the Editor. Approximately one out of three manuscripts are selected for Publication.

4. Resources in Institutional Research (RIR)

The RIR Series was created in 1992 as a product of strategic discussions between the AIR Executive Director and the Publications Committee. The purpose of this series is to produce for the membership and give greater visibility to the growing number of important AIR monographs. Starting with the now classic *Functions of Institutional Research* by Joe L. Saupe (first published in 1981), the

series includes the *Primer for Institutional Research* (now in its second edition by Whiteley, Porter, and Fenske), the *Bibliography of Reference Sources* (edited by Fendley & Seeloff), the best-selling *Questionnaire Survey Research* (now in its second edition by Suskie), *Strategies for the Practice of Institutional Research* (by Middaugh, Trusheim & Bauer), and *Statistical Applications in IR* (by Coughlin & Pagano). These last three are publications based upon AIR Institute Workshops, and at least two others are expected from the Institute series.

5. The Higher Education Handbook of Theory and Research (HEH), 1985.

Editor: John C. Smart, 1985+
Associate Editors (topic areas)

Philip G. Altbach (comparative higher education)
Alan E. Bayer (faculty)
Clifton F. Conrad (graduate and professional education)
David D. Dill, Kenneth P. Mortimer (governance and planning)
Corinna A. Ethington, Ernest T. Pascarella (research methodology)
James C. Hearn (government and higher education)
Barbara A. Lee (legal issues)
David W. Leslie (institutional policy issues)
Larry L. Leslie (finance and resource allocations)
Raymond P. Perry, Cameron Fincher (curriculum and instruction)
Marvin W. Peterson, Kim S. Cameron (organizational theory and behavior)
Patrick T. Terenzini (students)
John R. Thelin, Lester F. Goodchild (history and philosophy)
William Toombs (continuing education for the professions)
Richard A. Voorhees (community colleges)

Started in 1985, the *Higher Education Handbook* publishes one annual volume (Agathon Press) and is jointly sponsored by AIR and the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE). The *Handbook* is organized around twelve higher education topic areas, each with its own Associate Editor. These twelve areas reflect the richness and diversity of the field in terms of subject matter interests and methodological perspectives. The Associate Editors provide general leadership and direction for each topic area and they work with the contributing author(s) for each chapter. While the typical pattern is to have one chapter per research area in each volume, there are volumes in which an area is not represented, or is represented by more than one chapter. With some of the annual volumes running to 500 pages, each chapter is a major work.

As described in the first edition, the *Handbook* was established on the belief that the further maturation of higher education as an area of scholarly inquiry is contingent upon our ability to bring order and understanding to our increasingly rich, diverse, and fragmented research findings. The HEH thus provides an annual compendium of exhaustive and integrative literature reviews on a diverse array of topics. Each annual volume seeks to strike a balance between comprehensiveness and depth of coverage. Contributing authors are selected for their recognized expertise in the specific specialty areas. The charge to each author is threefold: to provide an integrative review of extant research on the selected topic, to critique that research in terms of its conceptual and methodological rigor, and to set forth an agenda for future research.